

Vision 20/20

District 20 acknowledges that this land on which our members reside is situated on traditional Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Territory.

Volume XI Issue ii, Fall 2021

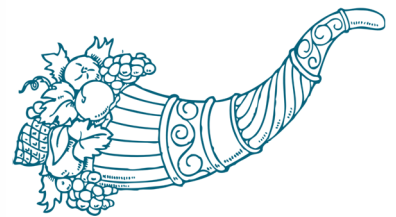
Welcome to our new 2021-2022 District 20 Executive! See page 2 for the full list!

Patti's Bread 'n Butters! The Bounty from the Backyard...! From cucumbers to pickles - the processing is therapeutic and the results are a year round treat!

Share your garden pix and stories for our next newsletter!



**ELECTIONS –
ELECTIONS!**
See page 9 for more!



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**Get ready
to Chime In and
connect with
others! See
page 10 for
details!**



Attention District 20 Members: Does your not-for-profit group have a connection to education in the community? Consider applying for a **Service-To-Others Grant** from your District 20.

See page 12 for deadlines!

RTOERO District 20 Executive and Committees 2021–2022

EXECUTIVE (NEW!)

PRESIDENT: Juanita Everett president20@districts.rtoero.ca 613.900.8147

PAST PRESIDENT: Les Forkes
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: Dennis Quinn
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: Madeleine Wotherspoon
SECRETARY: Ted Whiteland
TREASURER: Dave McLatchie
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Liz Carson

COUNCILLORS

Patricia Bland
David Kendall
Lorraine Kenney
Lorraine Tank
Councillor Vacancy for Environmental Stewardship*

CHAIRS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

AWARDS: Madeleine Wotherspoon
BENEFITS: Lorraine Tank
COMMUNICATIONS (VISION 20/20): Patricia Bland rtoero20@gmail.com
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: Dennis Quinn
GOODWILL AND MEMBERSHIP SERVICES: Ann Botros
POLITICAL ADVOCACY: David Kendall
RTOERO FOUNDATION: Ted Whiteland
TRAVEL: Dennis Quinn
WEBSITE: Ted Carson

***NEW DISTRICT 20 EXECUTIVE POSITION**

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



“Climate change. Air quality. Water quality. Bio-diversity loss. CO2 emissions. Plastic pollution. Simple words. Intimidating concepts. We can make a difference and motivate others to be part of the solution and encourage others to be part of the solution.”

In concert with provincial plans and VibrantVoices.ca our District 20 Executive has created a new Councillor position for **Environmental Stewardship**.

As an Executive member this individual will focus attention on keeping the Executive and membership apprised on environmental issues and possible actions that can be implemented to address environmental concerns. Being such a new position, there are no concrete boundaries or duties as this will be an evolving role. Members who have an interest in filling this important position on the local District 20 Executive are encouraged to contact District President, **Juanita Everett**, by email at president20@districts.rtoero.ca or by phone at 613.900.8147 or email rtoero20@gmail.com.

https://rtoero.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Environmental_Stewardship_WP-Web_EN.pdf

Vision 20/20 is published three times a year: Winter, Spring and Fall. The colour e-copy is emailed and available at RTOERO20.com. The printed copy is sent via Canada Post. All materials and editing are completed by District 20 volunteers and all printing is managed by DigiGraphics in Kingston.



14 Davey Crescent
Amherstview, Ontario K7N 1X6
Remember to update your personal info with RTOERO.



President's Message

Juanita Everett president20@districts.rtoero.ca

I hope all members had a safe and healthy summer. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new members and congratulate our recent

retirees. Our Executive sincerely thanks **Les Forkes** for acting as our most dedicated District President throughout the pandemic! We know he is pleased to finally pass the baton to yours truly.

Our new Executive is looking forward to serving our membership in a more direct, personal manner. While Skype, FaceTime and Zoom have served their purpose, they are a poor substitute for in person hugs, maskless smiles and joyful social gatherings. My husband, John, and I have been able to host "Camp Grandma", fly to Brandon Manitoba for a family visit and return to a weekly round of golf since restrictions have eased. Although, I do plan to continue my relationship with the Amazon delivery person (much to my dog's chagrin), as I am extremely happy to be able to shop without standing in lines and will return to in restaurant dining.

While 2021 began in isolation and often despair, it was replaced with determination and hope. Our frontline health workers and the vast number of essential workers kept that hope alive and we will be forever grateful for their dedication and care. Vaccinations have allowed a measured and safe return to more normal times. I am

happy to share that your District 20 Executive hopes to begin in-person, outdoor meetings early this Fall. (We'll see!) Unfortunately, large gatherings such as our annual **To 'ell With the Bell** will have to wait for another year. Some folks have returned to the **Cavelier Room (Travelodge Hotel)** for breakfast socials on the first Wednesday of the month. Maybe the lunch visits in the north will start up again soon!?

As as the new school year rolls around on Tuesday, September 7th, please remember all members of the education community who are returning to work in these still stressful times. We support and encourage their efforts to provide safe, quality education for Ontario's students.

Finally, I would like to remind all members that our Executive is always looking for interested, energetic volunteers to serve with our team. We currently have a Councillor vacancy for **Environmental Stewardship**. I urge anyone who is interested in environmental issues both big and small, and with a little time to spare, to join us and help District 20 make a positive impact in our communities.

Juanita Everett

President
RTOERO District 20
2021-2022





BENEFIT MATTERS
REPORT BY *Lorraine Tank*



The new **My Insurance** portal has been launched by Johnson

Insurance. This portal will give members enhanced security, easier access to policy information and faster approval and payment for claims.

Anyone with questions about creating their new password or about using the portal should contact the Johnson support team

directly. Contact may be made through email at digitalsupport@johnson.ca or by telephone at



1-833-749-1324. For questions regarding claim eligibility, contact Johnson by email at PDClaimsOntario@johnson.ca or by telephone at 1-877-406-9007.

When contacting Johnson by email, be sure to include your name and certificate/ID number.

As everyone becomes vaccinated and restrictions are lifting, members are encouraged to get out and enjoy the sunshine. Please remember to use sunscreen, wear a hat and sunglasses and keep hydrated (water is best!)

for today's active adults

50+

SESSION 1 BEGINS SEPTEMBER 7 REGISTER TODAY!

The time is NOW!

Fitness
Games
Music
Arts & Crafts

Languages
Wellness
Sports
Dance

Seniors Association
3 convenient locations
613.548.7810
info@SeniorsKingston.ca

www.SeniorsKingston.ca



IN MEMORIAM

On behalf of the members of District 20, the Executive expresses its sincere condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of those recently deceased. We share in the mourning of their loss and celebrate the services they rendered. During this time of COVID-19 and social distancing, we extend our thoughts to those who are affected by these additional difficulties. Our list is current as of August 2021.



Venoo Advani

James Jordan

Edmund Bauder

June Kennedy

Joanne Chadwick

Isobelle Keyes

Lawrence Chiarot

Bessie Meeks

M Margaret Clare

James R Morris

Gary Clarke

Ella Morton

Gary Coathup

Sandra Murphy

Floyd Deyo

Sandra Myers

Dorothy Fresque

Mura Noble

Claire Graves

J Norma Pickering



IS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE? Have you moved? Changed phone numbers? Are you in a different RTOERO District? Do you have a language preference? Are you the primary contact in your household? Contact RTOERO by email membership@rtoero.ca or phone 1-800-361-9888.

Welcome New Members!



District 20 welcomes our new members! As of August 2021 we are comprised of 1414 registered members in Frontenac, Lennox and Addington.

Donna Abbink

Caroline Baetz

Gail Ball

Mary Chiarot

Diane Clarke

Cherie Coathup

Fabienne Deloughery

Phyllis Deyo

Carolyn Giles

Margaret Irvine

Janice Jerreat

Laurel Main

MaryKay Morris

John Noble

Douglas Steele

Elizabeth Suriyuth

Susan Watson

Welcome



Did you know? Certificates for members who turn 100 years old will be sent from the RTOERO office, along with birthday greetings. Members over 100 years also receive free membership.



OUR DISTRICT 20 COMMUNITY

Update: Community Grant – Machine Mavericks Madeleine Wotherspoon, 2nd Vice President

Machine Mavericks, recipients of a RTOERO District 20 Community Grant in 2020 to help build a virtual robotics training system for Kingston youth did very well in the skills competition (building a robot and having it perform a variety of tasks in a fixed amount of time).

As well, a team entered and won the Mayor's Innovation Challenge creating the **AquaCue** a swim guide for the visually impaired. This innovation was then entered in the **FIRST Global Innovation Awards Competition** and, chosen for the semi-finals, had to provide a more detailed description of the innovation and a business plan for getting it to market. The result was that Machine Mavericks were selected as one of 10 finalists out of the ~1000 entrants from eight different countries and went on to win the FIRST Global Innovation award for Business Model!

AquaCue



A key part of their business plan was to get a patent on the concept so that it could be licensed to more established swim companies. Queen's University Intellectual Property office worked with MM pro bono on the patent application and MM have a 25-page provisional patent filed. MM got approval from the City of Kingston to try the system out in a public pool this summer and are working to make that happen.

Also, in the past few months the LEGO League Team MM mentors and coaches, **L-Cubed**, placed second in Ontario out of ~400 teams and advanced to the World Festival.

Machine Mavericks had a sendoff celebration for our team's graduates last month. They're heading off to Cornell, Durham, Harvard, Oxford, Queen's, Waterloo, and Western. We wish them all continued success!

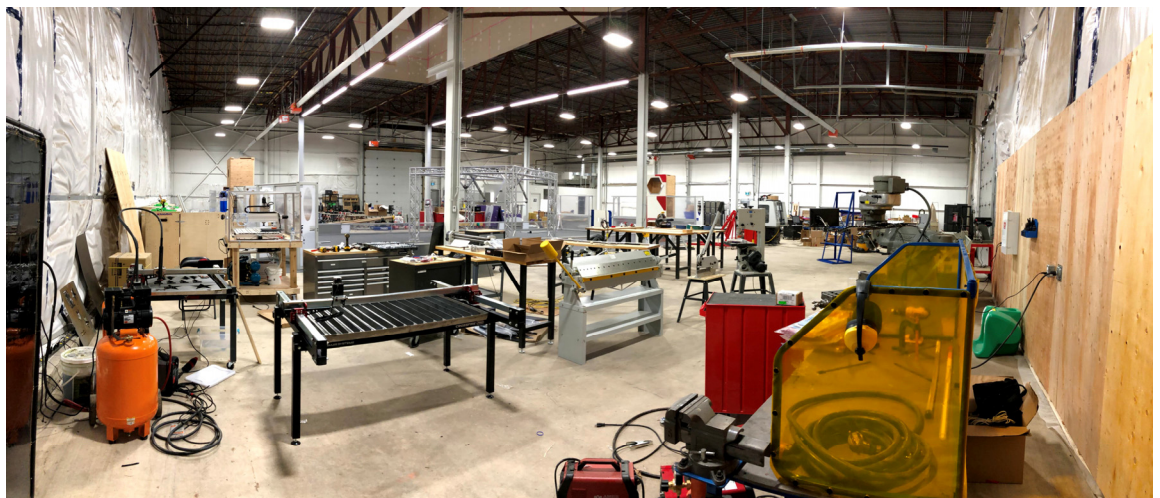
Now that Machine Mavericks can finally meet again in person, they are working to complete the setup of their new facility. The plan is to host two high school FRC robotics teams, two FTC middle school teams, and two FLL LEGO league teams. It will be a busy Fall!

Thanks for all your support!

Niall O'Driscoll,

Lead Coach

MachineMavericks



Machine Mavericks Workshop on Railway Street, Kingston. www.machinemavericks.com



Political Advocacy Report
David Kendall Committee Chair and Councillor



ELECTIONS – ELECTIONS - ELECTIONS

RTOERO District 20 has been active in past municipal, provincial and federal election campaigns. At the provincial and federal levels, we include the riding of Lanark, Frontenac and Kingston and the riding of Kingston and the Islands and we also share the riding of Hastings- Lennox and Addington with our colleagues in District 19 – Hastings and Prince Edward.

During election campaigns, District 20 has brought together our colleagues in the OSSTF, OECTA and ETFO Teacher unions as well as CUPE and other education union groups in both Districts to offer “All Candidate Meetings” to our communities.

It appears that we will once again be called upon for action at all three levels of government during this next school year.

Election Campaigns

The next municipal election is scheduled for Monday, October 24, 2022.

The next provincial election is scheduled for June 22, 2022.

The next **federal election** is scheduled for **Monday, September 20, 2021**. The Prime Minister has called for a Fall election due to the positive ratings for the Party in the polls and also the success of covid vaccinations.



RTOERO is once again gearing up to work with our colleagues in the education sector to actively participate in these election campaigns to promote action on the issues challenging our members and communities everywhere through our Vibrant Voices Political Advocacy Campaign.

<https://rtoero.ca/giving-back/advocacy/>

Connect with advocacy experts through fall Vibrant Voices webinars (<https://rtoero.ca/vibrant-voices/>)

The fall will feature the following Vibrant Voices webinars:

- Sept. 15: Building an elder care system that actually cares – featuring André Picard
- Oct. 13: Saving the forest...saving us – featuring Dr. Diana Beresford-Kroeger
- Nov. 3: Pathways to wellness for older persons – featuring Isobel Mackenzie and Keri-Leigh Cassidy

Members can preview details on each of the following topics by accessing the RTOERO Provincial website.

Seniors Strategy:

- Income security -Universal public pharmacare
- Social isolation -Aging at home -Rights for seniors

Geriatric Health Care:

- Geriatric training -Healthy aging
- Long term care -Elder abuse

Environmental Stewardship:

- Ban on single-use plastics
- Common recycling standards
- Environmentally-sustainable transportation
- Safeguarding the water supply and drinking water



Ted Whiteland
Vice-Chair RTOERO Foundation
<https://rtoero.ca/rtoero-foundation/>



RTOERO FOUNDATION UPDATES

Foundation webinar series

The RTOERO Foundation's annual webinar series is now in its fourth year. These webinars put a spotlight on topics such as geriatric health care, wellness, social connection and diversity and inclusion.

More than 800 members have attended the three Foundation webinars held in the spring. If you missed any of the webinars or wish to view them again, go to the [Foundation blog on the website](https://rtoero.ca/rtoero-foundation/blog/). <https://rtoero.ca/rtoero-foundation/blog/>

The Foundation has three webinars scheduled for the fall, the first of which takes place on Oct. 5 featuring **Dr. Samir Sinha**, director of geriatrics at Sinai Health.



Get ready to *Chime In* and connect with others



After more than a year of stay-at-home orders and social isolation, there is finally a light at the end of the tunnel. However, as lockdown ends and the world begins to reopen, we realize that some of our members may continue to feel cut off from social activity and in need of interaction and connection with others.

That's why the RTOERO Foundation is inviting you to *Chime In*.

The Foundation launched Social Isolation Awareness Month in 2018, but feedback from RTOERO members helped us see that our programming needed to evolve from awareness to action; to help those who might be feeling isolated and alone. This insight led us to create *Chime In* - a new, ongoing program designed to help RTOERO members connect with one another and enjoy regular social activity.

Chime In launches on **October 6, 2021**.

Foundation volunteers will host an open conversation on Zoom every Wednesday from 1pm – 2pm EST. Join us using **Zoom or call in by phone**.

Chime In is all about *you* and will be following your lead. *Chime In* is a platform for open conversation and connection. You might decide to focus on a particular topic each week, or you might want to chat with folks who share similar interests and hobbies. Above all, we want you to enjoy the chance to connect with other members and even find new friends.

Please visit rtoerofoundation.ca/chimein to sign up. For more information or help signing up, please contact the RTOERO Foundation at 416-962-9463 ext. 271.

We can't wait for you to join us in October as we all *Chime In*.



TRAVEL Matters

REPORT BY *Dennis Quinn*, CHAIR, KARTTC

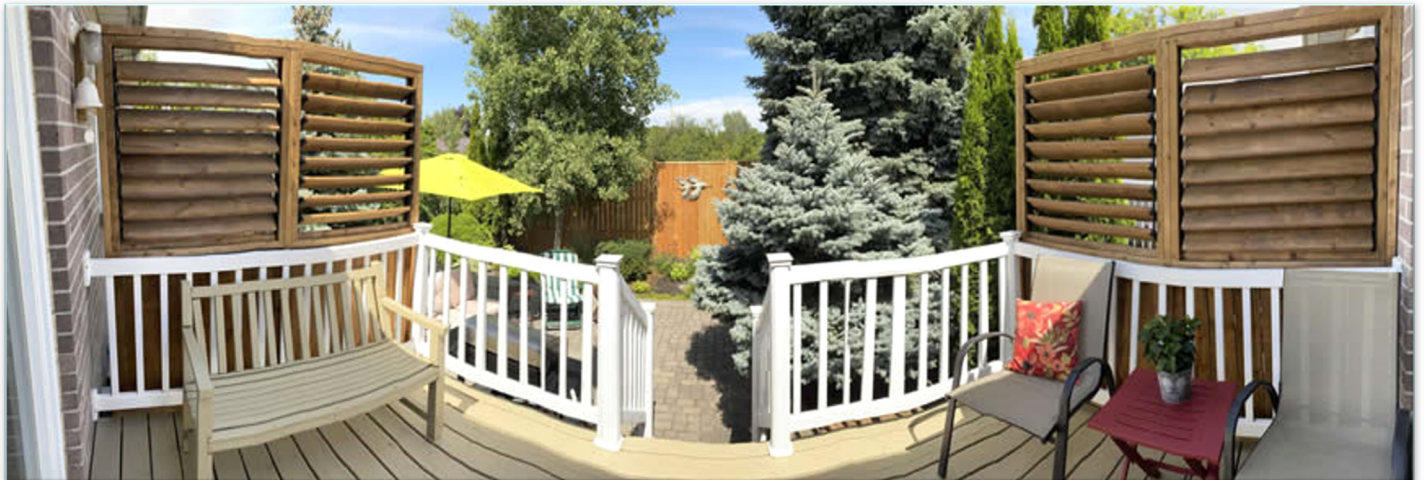


Kingston Area Retired Teachers Travel Committee (KARTTC)

Call for Committee Members!

If you love travelling and want to organize ventures for District 20 Members please contact Dennis Quinn, Chair of KARTTC.

MERIT TRAVEL still maintains a presence in the area for District 20 members. Although the Princess Street office is closed, **Gayle Outhwaite** represents Merit and welcomes RTOERO members who are ready to start making travel plans in the post-pandemic era.



Dennis Quinn has completed some fancy upgrades to his back deck! Things that we caught up with during the pandemic!



Liz and Ted Carson have an explosion of colour flowers adorning their back yard!

Award/Grant	Deadline	Criteria
Provincial Scholarship	February 2022	Form on RTOERO web: www.rtoero.org/scholarship/
RTOERO Charitable Donation	February 1, 2022	Nominations from Districts
RTOERO Distinguished Member Award	Nominations in 2021	3 per year Nominations from Districts
RTOERO Provincial Founding Member Award	Nominations in 2021	1 per year Nominations from Districts
Provincial Service-to-Others	Nominations in 2021	Local, national or international programs often involving children, disadvantaged groups, culture and heritage
District 20 Project Service-To-Others District Grants	October 15, 2021 AND April 1, 2022	Focused on local groups with an education related theme, connection, goal or component
District 20 Irwin Ruttle Award District Award Previous winners on RTOERO20.com	April 1, 2022	For outstanding voluntary contributions to our RTOERO District 20

Please consider applying in 2021!



Send Applications for the **Service-to-Others Grants** to
 Madeleine Wotherspoon, Awards Chair, RTOERO District 20,
 204 Queen Mary Road Apt 106, Kingston, ON K7M2A9 Phone: 613-766-4887
 Grant applications are available at www.rtoero20.com or
 requested from madlyn1912@gmail.com

Did you know???

- rtoero.ca/events/retirement-planning-workshops/ You can invite your friends and colleagues to attend a free (virtual) retirement planning workshop
- Check out new branded golf balls, golf shirts, tote bags and more in our RTOERO eStore.
- You can access the RTOERO Guide to Retiring Happy at rtoero.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/RTON059-Retiring-Happy-Booklet_INT_ENG.pdf.

Thank you for accepting our e-newsletter and for saving trees and postage expenses. You have the pleasure of viewing a colour copy and if you choose, you can easily print a personal copy.